



Abbot's Lea School  
Parents Exam Handbook  
2021 – 2022

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## The purpose of the exams


“Exams have an important role in the process of learning and in the whole educational institution.” Exams and tests are a great way to assess what the students have learned with regards to particular subjects.”

(<https://www.edu-quip.co.uk/blog/the-purpose-of-exams>)

For Abbot’s Lea School the exams form part of the final assessments, we use in accordance to the exam board we use; this is Open Awards.

This is an opportunity for the students to show how much they have learned, know and understand in the aforementioned subjects.

The exam dates are as follows, this will change for 2022 and we will inform you ASAP: -

<b>Functional Skills English and Mathematics Levels 1 and 2</b>					 openawards
<b>Paper-based Assessment Calendar 2021</b>					
Paper-based assessments at Levels 1 and 2 are available every 6 weeks* on the following set dates only. Assessments must not be taken on any other date than those specified.					
<b><u>JANUARY</u></b> Maths 11 Jan English 12 Jan Schedule Deadline: 18 Dec Result Release: 25 Feb	<b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b> Maths 22 Feb English 23 Feb Schedule Deadline: 29 Jan Result Release: 12 Apr	<b><u>APRIL</u></b> Maths 12 Apr English 13 Apr Schedule Deadline: 12 Mar Results Release: 28 May	<b><u>MAY</u></b> Maths 17 May English 18 May Schedule Deadline: 23 Apr Results Release: 2 Jul	<b><u>JUNE</u></b> Maths 28 Jun English 29 Jun Schedule Deadline: 4 Jun Results Release: 12 Aug	
<b><u>AUGUST</u></b> Maths 9 Aug English 10 Aug Schedule Deadline: 16 Jul Results Release: 24 Sep	<b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b> Maths 20 Sep English 21 Sep Schedule Deadline: 27 Aug Result Release: 4 Nov	<b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b> Maths 1 Nov English 2 Nov Schedule Deadline: 8 Oct Result Release: 16 Dec	<b><u>DECEMBER</u></b> Maths 13 Dec English 14 Dec Schedule Deadline: 19 Nov Result Release: 31 Jan 22		

### **What exams will the students sit?**

In Functional skills English, ICT and Maths the different levels finish with exams, which will be sat in the hall. These subjects have exam papers which are either paper or on a laptop. The only difference for English is that it has a Speaking, Listening and Communication exam, this will take place in a separate room and is not in the form of an exam paper.

#### **English**

Reading exam paper – questions based on small passages that the students read in the exam paper

Writing paper – questions were the student's need to respond in certain styles

Speaking, Listening and Communication task - students have a topic to discuss as a group in two tasks.

#### **Maths**

Paper A – non calculator paper

Paper B – Calculator is allowed for this paper, there are more questions on this paper

#### **ICT**

One exam paper – students have tasks to complete and generate the evidence of what they have created.

How to prepare for the exams?

# HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN EXAM

BY MR LYONS

<b>1</b>	<b>REVISE - THERE ARE MANY METHODS AND STAFF WILL HELP YOU FIND THE BEST METHOD FOR YOU</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>COMPLETE PRACTICE PAPERS</b>
			
<b>3</b>	<b>EXERCISE REGULARLY AS PHYSICAL HEALTH SUPPORTS MENTAL HEALTH</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>TRY AND GET A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP</b>
			
<b>5</b>	<b>ASK QUESTIONS IN CLASS TO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>REMAND YOURSELF YOU CAN DO THIS!</b>
			

## How to revise?

There are many ways to revise and everyone will revise in a different way. Here are some ideas of how you can support your child in revising for exams.

### **1. Create a timetable**

Use your time effectively and make sure you know exactly what you need to work on during your revision. Sorry to say it but there is no point in revising the content you already know. Please look at the Open Awards link and what the subjects are all about.

### **2. Condense your notes into flashcards**

Flashcards are useful in so many ways and so versatile, from condensing information to learning vocab for languages, they are so purposeful.

The quick-fire question type allows you to test your knowledge, they are also a portable way of transferring those hefty textbooks into little manageable chunks. I really recommend flashcards for languages as with so much vocab it is vital that you know how to apply and transfer these.

Quizlet is a useful website that can be used to create them, website found in the useful website page.

### **3. Use mind maps to put everything in one place**

Mind Maps are so useful for condensing knowledge and subject terminology into one place. You can stick them on the walls so they are always there and there is no way to escape it.

Highlight them into key concepts or words that you need to know, if you keep looking at it is very efficient for learning chunks of information quickly. Add images and use your creativity to make them interesting and exciting to read.

You can also try revision maps. Add the title of the topic or module and the sub topics in that and add all the information in it.



#### **4. Use the blurring technique to test yourself**

Blurring is such a useful pre-exam technique, UnJaded Jade on youtube has developed this method. Simply write the topic on and note down all you know about that topic around it and compare it to the mark scheme or textbook.

This way you clearly know what parts of the topic you need to revise and what you already know. It also shows you what is in your long and short term memory so you can adapt your revision timetable to those areas. This is incredibly useful for smaller topics as you can make sure you know every aspect of the curriculum to score those top marks and get the best grade.

#### **5. Get more information from Seneca**

Seneca is such a good online free revision tool that is subject and exam board specific. It turns all the essential content into fun interactive tools.

It ensures you know all the content ready for your exam with the knowledge testers at the end of each topic. It categorises the content into smaller more manageable chunks so there is no feeling of overwhelming work.

After each quiz, you can choose to store your memory in a specific country which adds even more fun and competition to unlock all 619 countries on the map.

There are also competitions on each of the course to win premium or even gift cards for well-known brands. They also give worked examples to follow and complete which helps to ensure the information is ingrained into your head ready for the exam.

#### **6. Practice papers**

Past Papers are essential to any exam revision. Doing past papers means that you know how to answer different exam questions and the wording of the questions that the exam board use.

With doing past papers comes the mark scheme, learn what the examiners want to see inside out. This way before you go in the exam you know exactly how to answer the questions to get the full marks available.

The task of doing past papers alone is very useful but to help even more you can annotate the question and your answer to fit the mark scheme, The exam boards all have past exam papers available for students to use, the link will be in the useful websites section.

#### **7. Look after your mental and physical health**

There is absolutely no point in revising and pushing yourself to your limits if you can't focus on yourself. There have been scientific studies that have seen that those who have a good mental attitude and higher self-worth are more likely to perform better in exams.

If you need to take time out and go for a walk or focus on your well-being. After there is only one you!

### **What support will be offered in the exam**

All students will have extra time to sit the exam paper, what this means is that they will receive an extra 25% of the time. The students will also have the opportunity for a short supervised break if they need during the exam to compose themselves.

The students will have depending on their additional needs a scribe for all exam papers except the writing paper in English and a reader for all exam papers except the reading paper in English.

Any other physical need that the student may have will also be supported in the exam, for example the chair, pencil grip, overlay and wedge.

The staff supporting the students in the exams will be the staff the students have worked with or been in the same key stage, so that it is familiar faces, to reduce any anxieties.

The students will also have the opportunity to sit practice papers, so that they are familiar with the process and the mechanisms of the papers (for example if it is on a laptop).



### **Useful websites**

1. <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>
2. <https://openawards.org.uk/what-we-offer/functional-skills/>
3. <https://quizlet.com/en-gb>
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zjd8jty>
5. <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/resources/cgp-s-free-online-10-minute-tests/free-functional-skills-maths-online-10-minute-test>
6. <https://www.skillsworkshop.org/category/resource-type/revision-material?q=category/resource-type/revision-material&page=1>

## Practice questions

### English

Text 1



Welcome to FLUFFY, the **first** cat café in the UK!

FLUFFY offers you the 'perfect' escape from the bustle of the city. This café serves food and drinks in the company of purring, footballs waiting to be stroked and cuddled.

**A crazy idea?**  
Not at all! It started in Taiwan in 1995, then spread to Japan and has now reached the UK. So why not give FLUFFY a try!

**Our aim?**  
To make people feel better. Cats are very soothing for those who spend their days looking at a computer screen. It also gives cat lovers who can't have pets where they live a chance to spend time with cats.

**Our rules?**

- Don't pick up the cats.
- Don't pull their tails or whiskers.
- Don't disturb sleeping cats.
- Don't scare or chase the cats.

**FLUFFY's opening times?**

- Tuesday to Thursday: 11am – 8pm
- Friday and Saturday: 11am – 10pm
- Sunday: 11am – 8pm
- Monday: closed

Fluffy Cat Café  
8 Wince Avenue  
Lowridge  
LW6 2JZ  
Tel: 01234 871234  
E-mail: info@fluffy.co.uk

These questions relate to Text 1 (12 marks)

Question 1

(2 marks)

Is the idea of a cat café new? How do you know?

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Question 2

(3 marks)

Identify **one** layout feature that makes the text easier for the reader to understand. Use this feature to find **two** pieces of information about cat cafés.

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Question 3

(2 marks)

Identify **two** phrases used in Text 1 to persuade people to come to the café.

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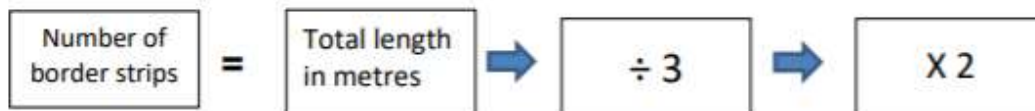
## Maths

- a) Janice wants to put border strips around **three** sides of her square lawn. The length of one side of the lawn is 14 metres.



Border strip

To calculate the number of strips she needs, Janice follows this rule:



Each border strip costs £9.89.

Show an **estimate** of the cost of the required number of border strips. (4 marks)

Show your calculations and/or workings out here:

Write your answer in this box.